

Walking – Abstract

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In *Walking*, the author Henry David Thoreau (1862) wishes to speak a word for the preservation of nature, for the wildness and the absolute freedom it represents. There are many others who would speak for civilization. Thoreau expresses his affinity for nature through sauntering, or the art of walking. He walks each day: some days four hours, sometimes 20 miles, and still other days he chooses a route where he walks all day without ever seeing civilization. Thoreau is tormented by the taming of the wild. He is distressed by surveyed boundaries, the cutting down of entire forests, and houses cropping up all around his wilderness. Thoreau alleged that civilization of the wild makes man weak, and not all men are fit to be civilized. In every civilized man or domesticated farm animal are wild oats still to be sown. “In short,” Thoreau (1862) believes, “all good things are wild and free” (p. 16), and the preservation of the wildness is the preservation of the world.

References

Thoreau, H. D. (1862). Walking. In *Transcendentalists*. Retrieved September 29, 2008, from <http://www.transcendentalists.com/walking.htm>